

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A batting system for use in conjunction with an open field such as a golf driving range, said batting system comprising:

a batting station having an enclosed space open at a front side, and including a ball collection receiver located at the rear of said space behind the batter, and having a hopper for storing balls,

a pitching machine spaced from said batting station for pitching balls toward a strike zone in said space, and

a ball transport including a conveyor to move the balls from the hopper to the pitching machine, said transport including an escapement between said hopper and said pitching machine to provide individual balls to said pitching machine. ~~by a batter at a batting position comprising:~~

~~—— a baseball hopper for location proximate the batting position;~~

~~—— a pitching machine at a pitching position spaced from the batting position for pitching baseballs toward the batting position, and~~

~~—— a baseball transport for receiving baseballs from the baseball hopper and delivering the baseballs to the pitching machine.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The batting system of claim 1 wherein said pitching machine includes a controller for adjusting the ball's trajectory pitched toward the strike zone, said controller located adjacent said batting station. ~~further comprising a cage surrounding the batting position and having an opening oriented toward the pitching machine such that a baseball when pitched enters the cage through the opening of the cage.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The batting system of claim 2 further comprising balls made to look like conventional baseballs in external configuration, but being molded from one polymeric material to have a foam cone and a somewhat stiffer skin. ~~1 further comprising a ball collection receiver proximate the batting position, and having an opening to receive a pitched baseball from the pitching machine~~

4. (Currently Amended) The batting system of claim 3 wherein said balls are of a color selected from the group comprising essentially very visible wavelengths, namely yellow, red or orange. ~~1 wherein the baseball transport includes a ball conveyor and a ball escapement in communication with one another and with the hopper for delivering baseballs seriatim to the pitching machine~~

5. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A method of making a baseball for use with a pitching machine comprising the steps of:

molding an open cell flexible foam into a baseball whereby the foam is given an integrally formed cover over a core, the cover being harder than the core.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A baseball for use with a pitching machine comprising:
an open cell flexible foam molded to create a cover surrounding an inner core, the cover being harder than the inner core.

19. (Original) The baseball of claim 18 wherein the open cell foam is molded by an integral foam process.

20. (Original) The baseball of claim 18 wherein the cover has dimples to improve its flight trajectory characteristics.

21. (Original) The baseball of claim 18 wherein the cover has a color classified as strong, brilliant, or vivid.

22. (Original) The baseball of claim 21 wherein the color is selected from the group consisting essentially of yellow, red, and orange.